A PROPOSAL

For the Incouragement of Seamen.
For the General good of the Kingdom.
For preventing and Discovering Thieferies at Home, and Robberies Abroad;

Humbly Presented to the Honourable the Knights, Citizens *and* Burgesses *in* Parliament *Assembled,*

For the Raising a Charitable Sum *of* Sixty Thousand Pounds *in the Year* 1697. *For their Advantage of whom it is Raised.*

And the Raising and Settling of Twenty Thousand Pounds per Annum, *towards the Erecting and Endowing of the Intended* Hospital at Greenwich; (*which is supposed will be most Magnificent, and for the Honour of the* English *Nation the* King *of His Royal Bounty, having given his Royal Palace there, for that Purpose*)

For the Yearly Charitable and Liberal Relief of Thousands of Disabled Seamen, *during their lives,*

And the Widows *and* Children *of such as shall be slain in* Sea-Service,

And to Animate the Seamen with fresh Courage, to come in, Register their names, Man the **Royal Navy**, *and venture their Limbs and Lives for their King and Country.*

By **Thomas Mozin**, and **Nicholas Jennings.**

1697.

IT is Proposed, That this **Charitable Fund** be Raised and Settled by Appropriating the Revenue, already Payable by a good Law, to the good Purposes aforesaid, which will be so far from being Burthensome to any Sailer, or any other good Subject, that it will be Beneficial to all, and is the Desire of many Thousands, and (it's presum'd,) of all (or most) Housekeepers in *England* that such an **Act** may pass, that they may enjoy the great Advantages thereof, and Opportunity thereby of shewing their Charity towards his Majesties **Royal, most Noble, Brave and absolutely necessary Design,** (*viz.*) **The Increase, Incouragement and Relief of Seamen,** who are (more then

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the Ships) as Walls and Bulwarks of Defence to the Kingdom, and cannot be too well Paid, nor too much Incouraged, especially at this time.

The Honourable *House of Commons*, about Three Years since, give leave to bring in

☞ **A Bill for the better Regulating of Servants, and prevent the Mischiefs arising by Idle, Disorderly Suspicious Persons.**

But the Persons aforesaid, not knowing then where to fix the Revenue that may arise hereby, as a Charity, so Serviceable and Satisfactory to the Kingdom, until His Majesty was pleased to recommend to the Parliament the bringing in some good Bill for the Increase and Incouragement of **Seamen**, *&c.* who are not so forward to Register themselves, as was expected, notwithstanding the intended Incouragement given them by the Act passed last Sessions.

Thereupon, the said Persons now revive this Affair, and do Propose, That the **Revenue**, that may arise thereby, already payable by Law, may be applied to the *Charity* aforesaid: for the Incouragement of **Seamen**.

☞ In the Fifth Year of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth* a **Statute** was made, wherein it was Enacted, *That Servants should not depart from their Services without a Certificate from their Masters, Mistresses, or Dames*; which *Certificate* was to be Registred, and the Person Registering was to pay for the same; which **Statute** is still in Force, but totally neglected, the **Revenue** lost, (by the Default of those that were to receive the same) and the **good Intents** thereof wholly frustrated, and many **Grievances** and **Mischiefs** have thereby multiplied in this Kingdom.

It is now humbly proposed, for Redressing **such Mischiefs** and for Promoting the so necessary, and the so much desired Reformation (of the unreformed lives and Manners of those who are of the *Reformed Religion*) and the Settlement of so **Royal, Noble, and Necessary Charity**, that the said *Act* be revived, and that an *Additional Act* may pass this *Session*, to enable His Majesty, His Heirs and Suc-cessors, to Authorize one or more Qualified Persons, as General Register to the whole Kingdom, to keep a General Register in *London*; and also to appoint Registers in all *Sea-Ports*, and such Places in *England* and *Wales*, as they shall think needful.

I. To

I. **To Register all Apprentices and Servants in the Families where they now Dwell.**

II. **To Register all idle, vagrant, suspicious and disorderly Persons, that lodge and lurk up and down in the several Paishes and Places where they now are found, to prevent Thieveries.**

III. **To Register all Boyles that stand at Livery, for the Security of the Government, and to prevent High-way Robberies.**

IV. **To Register all Seamen according to the Act passed last Sessions, Gratis, and thereby save the 5948 l. resolved this Session to be allowed for the Settling the Registry of Seamen.**

It is Humbly Proposed, That every such Servant may be Registered in the next *Register*, (as the *Act* shall direct) and the Person Registering shall take a Printed Testimonial thereof for which the *Register* shall receive One Shilling for each Person, and one Shilling each Horse, in that Qualification, and no more for ever.

This will Raise the Sirty thousand Pounds in the Year 1697.

The Qualifications for the Raising of Twenty Thousand Pounds per Annum; *Together with the Reasons, Necessity, and Charity of this* Register, *are as follow*:

First, For the Registering all **Apprentices** that shall hereafter be bound, and **Servants** that shall hereafter remove from their Services, which *Register* shall be a Charity to Servants, and for their great Advantage, as appears by what follows.

It must be admitted, that the Irregularities of many **Servants** are a great Grievance, by their ill Behaviour, and disorderly Living, and by the Liberty too many of them take to Rob, and Run away from their *Masters*; as appears by the Weekly *Prints*.

And other Servants remove often at their own Pleasures, unwilling to live orderly, which bring many of them to Poverty, to bad Company, and then to turn *Thieves*, *Pick-pockets*, *Whores*, and *Murtherers of their own Children*, and *Accessary to many Burglaries*; which is too well known by the woful Experience of most Sessions

in the City and Countrey; and it's fad to conſider, that there are above 200 **Criminals** now in *Newgate*: to prevent both Crimes and Puniſhments is a Noble *Charity*.

It is therefore Humbly Propoſed, That, **according to the ſaid Statute**, every Servant ſhall have a *Certificate* from their Maſters, Miſtreſſes or Dames, of their Behaviour and Converſation, (ſuch as the Act ſhall direct) when they depart from their Services, and ſhall Regiſter the ſame in the next Regiſter, and take a Printed Teſtimonial thereof under the Hand and Seal of the *Regiſter*; for which the *Regiſter* ſhall receive but *Six Pence*, And no Perſon ſhall receive any Servant without a Teſtimonial, under the Penalty of——*Pounds*.

1. This *Regiſtry* is Reſonable, Neceſſary, and Charitable, becauſe it will infallibly keep many Perſons from committing the aforeſaid (and alſo divers other) Crimes.

And it is a greater Work of Charity, and more pleaſing to Almighty God, to keep Men and Women from Vice, and to make them honeſt and happy; then 'tis of Juſtice ſeverely to puniſh Offenders for the Crime committed.

2. Hereby not only many *Criminals* will be prevented, but the Reſt will be diſcovered, and brought to Juſtice, being liable to be found out by this Regiſter, whether they commit the Fact in the City, or the Countrey, they ſhall not eſcape; and (if hereafter there ſhould be any Thefts) the ſtolen Goods will, by this means, be recover'd, and reſtor'd again.

3. This will oblige all Servants to demean themſelves well and orderly, that their Maſters or Dames may readily give them a *Certificate*, that they may immediately enter into other Services.

Secondly, For the Regiſtring all **Idle, Vagrant, Diſorderly** and **Suſpicious Perſons**, that lodge and lurk up and down, and have no viſible Eſtate, or way of Livelyhood, and are the Peſts and Caterpillars of the Kingdom; when any of this Qualification remove from their Places of Abode, (wherein they may be Regiſtred in the Year (1697) into a Service, or any other Family or Pariſh, they ſhall bring a *Certificate* (from whence they remove) to the next *Regiſter*, who ſhall Regiſter the ſame, and ſhall give them a Printed Teſtimonial thereof under his Hand and Seal; for which he ſhall receive *Six-pence*, and no more. And no Perſon, Family, or Pariſh, ſhall receive any ſuch Perſon without a Teſtimonial, under the Penalty of—*Pounds*.

1. This

1. This will prevent many Evils that lewd Women (of this qualification) bring the Youth of this Age into; it will prevent the increaſe of *Whores*, *Thieves*, and *Murderers*, and inſtead of being ſuch make them Honeſt, and Serviceable in the Kingdom; which is a *Noble Charity* to the Souls and Bodies too, of Men and Women.

2. It will keep many from *Poverty*, from *Priſon*, from the *Gallows*, and from *Hell*; Experience tells us, that there is ſcarce a Seſſions, but we hear of Old Offenders (tho ſome of them Young Perſons) Proſecuted for New Crimes, for which many of them are Condemned and Hanged in the Prime of their days, (whereby the Kings Subjects are diminiſhed) above Twenty being Condemned to die this Seſſions) this Regiſtry will prevent both the Crime and the Puniſhment, and this is Charity indeed.

3 It will keep the **Idle Poor**, and ill living People of one Pariſh out of other Pariſhes, and thereby prevent the Poverty that increaſes in many Pariſhes, by the Crouding in of ſuch Perſons.

4. It will diſcover and ſecure *Idle*, *Diſorderly*, *Suſpicious*, and *Diſaffected* Perſons to the *Government*, and the publick Peace of the *Kingdom* and cauſe many of them to work, and live according to the Laws of the Land. There may be 40000 of theſe Perſons made known by this Regiſter, what they are, and where they may be found when the Government have occaſion for Soldiers; theſe are fitter to go on ſuch Service, both by *Sea* and *Land*, than many that are Preſt by the *Preſs-Maſters*, who take ſuch as they light upon, ſome having four or five Children a piece, who preſently come to the Pariſh Charge; Forty or Fifty Mothers and Children come to the Charge of a Pariſh; in ſeveral Pariſhes there is this Year Twelve Quarters Tax to the Poor: *He that paid Six-pence, now pays One Shilling and Six-pence Weekly*; but theſe idle Vagrant Perſons that pay no Tax, may be ſpared, and the Neighbourhood would be glad to be rid of them, that they that work for themſelves and Families may ſtay at Home.

Men of all Religions agree in this, that National Sins procure National Judgments, and National Reformations, National Mercies.

And it is Humbly hoped, That

No Member of this Honourable Houſe, will be againſt the Reformation this will make, and the Charity it will Raiſe; for every one that keeps Servants is willing they ſhould be True, Faithful, and Orderly, and this will make, and keep them ſo.

And

And it is most reasonable, That he that looses Limb or Life, in Defence of the Kingdom, should himself, his Wife and Children, be Supported by the Kingdom, **Fighting Sailers are Englands Benefactors.**

No Master will think it a burthen (but be glad) to give or pay *One Shilling* for the assurance of his Apprentice's Faithful and Orderly Service for Seven Years, towards this Necessary and Noble *Charity*. Many Masters have said, they would pay *Ten Shillings* or *Twenty Shillings*, or more, at the binding of an Apprentice, rather than such an Act should not Pass.

No True and Honest Servant, will think it a Burthen to pay *Six Pence*, when He or She removes to a new Service, (which perhaps may be once in a Year, perhaps once in Two or Three Years) but think it a great Advantage, That upon such a Testimonial, they shall be receiv'd into Service immediately, without loss of time, or Enquiries about them; and be glad of the oppertunity of paying such a *Six-pence*, to so noble and necessary a *Charity*, to Relieve the Maimed **Seamen**, whereby they shall save six or eight times such a Sum which many of them many times pay to *Offices of Intelligence*, who keep Offices for their own private Advantages, but Minister no charity to Seamen:

But this *Register* shall Register all Entries of such Servants as desire it, of both Sexes, of any Capacity, Quality, or Imployment, that want Masters or Mistresses, *Gratis*.

And all such Servants as Register themselves, shall search these *Registers* for such Masters or Mistresses as want such Servants, *Gratis*.

☞ And this charity to Servants, surmounts theirs to Seamen. This Register shall Register all Entries of all Persons, Noblemen, Gentlemen, and all others who desire it who want Servants of either Sex, of any Capacity, Quality, or Imployment whatsoever.

In this *Register* shall all Boys and Maids be Entred *Gratis*, who desire it, and are willing to Serve as Apprentices with the several Trades they desire to be brought up unto, where Masters may be also informed of Servants.

☞ Of the thousands we have discoursed, both Gentlemen, Merchants, Trades-men, Men-Servants and Maid-servants, we have not met with two Persons who have opposed this Register; but have said, This may be one of the best things this Age hath produced; for that it infallibly Reforms the *Youth*, Prevents and Detects *Thieves*, and *Robbers*, Relieves the *Poor* and *Maimed* **Seamen**, gives a Reputation

to

to Honeſt and Faithful Servants, and Burthens no honeſt Body.

☞ *Thirdly* For the Regiſtring all **Horſes** at Livery Stables, about *London* and *Weſtminſter*, with their ſeveral Colours, and Marks, with their Owners Names, and dwellings, for which one Shilling, ſhall be Paid for each Horſe: This may be uſeful in theſe times of Danger

1. This will Prevent and Diſcover the Number of Horſes, kept by ill Affected Perſons, that have Deſigns againſt the Government: From theſe Regiſters, the Government may have a Weekly Account, what Horſes are kept at Livery Stables, and to whom they belong.

2. This will Prevent or Diſcover, moſt (if not all the) Robberies on the Highways, and thereby eaſe the Hundreds of many Chargeable Suits, and Payments for Robberies and Prevent many Murders.

About theſe Cities is that Den of Robbers, who keep their Horſes at Livery, commit their Robberies abroad, Repair hither, ſend their Horſes to Livery Stables, and ſo keep themſelves Undiſcovered, but Notice of any Robbery to this General Regiſter: with a Diſcription of the Horſes; this Regiſter will Diſcover, both Horſes and Riders.

No Honeſt man, well Affected to the Government (its Preſum'd, will Oppoſe this, or think it a Burthen to Pay One Shilling for the Regiſtring his Horſe, becauſe it Secures both himſelf and his Horſe from Robbers; *Who many times are bold to Rob near the City, and take away both Money, and Horſes too.*

☞ *Fourthly*, For the Regiſtring of **Seamen**, *Gratis* as the late Act for Regiſtring of **Seamen** directs; It is Humbly Propoſed, that this Regiſter may Regiſter **Seamen**, as well as Servants in the ſeveral Ports of the Kingdom, and ſave His Majeſty the Great Charge of ſetling and keeping particular Regiſters for that purpoſe, which will amount to a great Sum yearly: This ſaves that Charge, Defrays it's own Charge, and brings in 20000 Pounds *per Annum*.

Object. The Qualifications are ſo ſmall, they will not Raiſe the *Funds* propoſed.

Anſw. The ſaid Perſons do Propoſe to Settle Regiſters, Collect the Revenue, and pay it as the *Act* ſhall direct, and be content with what may be Raiſed over and above the *Sixty Thouſand Pounds* for the Year 1697. and the *Twenty Thouſand Pounds per Annum*, as a Recompence for their time, and expence of Money in contriving, and for the future Management thereof for three Years, and think they have the

the cheapeſt method of Management, Receiving, and Improving the ſaid Revenue.

But this, with all the reſt, is Humbly Submitted to His Majeſty, *and* His Parliament.

Theſe *Propoſals* have been approved of by divers Honourable Members of *Both Houſes* of the laſt *Parliament* who were of Opinion, That it would not be Burthenſome if *Half-a-Crown* were put in the ſtead of the *Shilling*, and a *Shilling* in the ſtead of the *Six-pence*, being *Charity* to the **Seamen**, (who ought to be well paid, and more incouraged;) whoſe Bravery and Courage hath been, and yet muſt be (under God) the Honour and Safety of the Kingdom;

Our Houſekeepers ſay they would rather give or pay it then be **Dragoon'd**; and our Servants ſay, they would rather give or pay it, than **wear wooden Shooes.**

Object. Though it be admitted, that this good and neceſſary **Charity** is Burthenſome to no body, and that the good ends of the Propoſal may be obtained, yet ſome Inconveniencies may ariſe in time, tho we ſee none at Preſent.

Anſw. Let an Act Paſs for three years, and Obſerve the **Thefts** and **Robberies**, this will Prevent, and the **Reformation** it will make, and thereby alſo give the preſent neceſſary **Incouragent to Seamen**, and leave it to the Wiſdom of the Nation, to do what they afterwards pleaſe, if time bring any Inconvenience to light by it.

We have not met with any material Objection againſt this matter theſe three Years, and we now hope we never ſhall, the deſign hereof being (to all Perſons concerned) nothing elſe but

The no Evil-thinking, and the Never-failing Charity.